
Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 22, Folder 1, Graham, Billy - Bitburg Cemetery, 1985.
TO: Howard Friedman, David Gordia, Leo Nevas
FROM: Marc Tanenbaum
DATE: Friday, April 19, 1985
RE: BILLY GRAHAM'S TELEPHONE CALL RE PRES. REAGAN

This morning at 11:00 a.m., I received a telephone call from Dr. Billy Graham from Montreat, North Carolina. He called to discuss "the terrible situation" of Pres. Reagan and his forthcoming visit to Germany.

Graham told me that he had spoken twice with the President during the past 10 days. He also said that he had a long talk with Nancy Reagan, who, he said, is more upset than at almost any time I have known her over the past 30 years. He added that last week Ambassador of the United States, Arthur Burns, called him from Bonn ("at 2:00 a.m.") to discuss the problem.

Graham said that the President was bewildered over the difficulty and does not know how to get out of it. Reagan told him that Kohl invited him "a long time ago" to take part in a reconciliation ceremony, analogous to that of Kohl and Mitterand at Verdun. He agreed and left it to the German and American staffs to work out the schedules. Reagan said he had agreed to go to military cemetery and also to Dachau. He did not know there were SS troops buried there. Dachau was reconsidered because of Kohl's problems with Franz Joseph Strauss, who seems not to have wanted the Dachau visit.

In any case, Graham told me he was "very strong with Reagan - I have never been so strong with him before" and told him that this was far more a moral issue than a political one, and that unless he finds a way to straighten this out it will undermine his moral authority in the country and overseas."

Nancy Reagan said she wishes Kohl would find a way to withdraw the invitation to the Bitberg cemetery. Nancy, he said, is very angry at the staff that got him into this hole.

Arthur Burns said that Kohl is stubborn about going to the military cemetery which has now become a political issue in Germany and he probably will not back down. Burns suggested to Reagan that he lay a wreath at the tomb of Konrad Adenauer, as the patriarch of German democracy.

Graham concluded that he was going to call Reagan again and tell him of our talk. He would suggest that Reagan's staff sit down with me to see if we would put this mess into some meaningful perspective. I told him I was prepared to be helpful together with other reliable colleagues. Graham said he would call me back.
April 20, 1985

Mike Denver:
- Bobb doesn't understand Anne Frank
- got his back up
- wanted for anything you can do
- strengthening USSR vs. Germany & U.S.
- Burgess - Salem - Anne Frank
- B. Berg - Athena
Betsy Graham - April 24, 1985 10:30 a.m.

Senator Sam Ervin - BC name in Watergate

Dear Brits -
Ameriems -
Bryon Bellum

1975-76 w. Plow, Plow opposed Israel
- w. op. Ethiopia Jews

Yowera lent
Billy Graham -

President - Zog Tuker -

Jimon Bruns - 2 a.m. - lengthy conversation

Adenauer grave - nr cemetery, SS troops

last year Mitterand, Kohl - Verdun summit, France state guest -

Mitterand - to him into whole

now - two political, men - never called him

Something so sharp before

Kohl called back / Mouni - very upset

when Kohl withdrew manifesto

Dechoum - Strauss, Kohl - February 1st

you're the moral authority in Country -

Thank take advantage, busness, Kohl -

Bergen-Belsen

school cemetery at entrance - Cos Morel led us east

View graveside - 1000s of Jewish people

Richard Vigjali -

John Loftus -
Billy Graham - 5 p.m. Friday

Felled 8/1 ago - Leave for Camp David
Pres. Nancy Reagan - phone number
Home number
Interested in Adenauer
Program proper speech
Possibility - Can work - go on trip - get along well
Don't know Donald Reagan
Kind, Liberal attitude
Nancy

Strong pro-Jewish b. A. Jews
wife President

Zordon - 213-278-2518
H. Freedman - 213-789-8251 (h)
619-437-45491
Billy Graham - Apr 45

1945 - Just went to Bush Convention Wheaton

Forgive us. April in Europe. - American in-law

Cold Spring, Kansas

Don, then Campaign in group to help
relationship with Germans that

Ben Reit
Birkenau

Ann, close friend - lovely girl
Frank Schott - April 26 1985
Bitburg

Pre-briefing - Pat Buchanan
- challenge on B. Reag - immoral, wrong, fix it away
- credibility a support of Neo.
- few names
- problem - media
- press conf. yesterday - Evangelical Leadership
  - Sec. Helms, Pat McMurtry, Jiray, locust, Bland
- issue of good & evil
- silence will happen again
- India - "you can't do this"
- complete German charge, set Berlin to set off Turkish
  - say definitive
B = Graham